



**CHALLENGES BEYOND BORDERS
SOLUTIONS BEYOND CULTURES**

**Asia Society's Third Annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit
November 14-16, 2008
Tokyo, Four Seasons Hotel**

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**I-MAK DIRECTOR PRITI RADHAKRISHNAN BRINGS FOCUS ON
ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AT GATHERING OF
ASIA-PACIFIC YOUNG LEADERS IN TOKYO**

**Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit Delegates to discuss global financial crisis and
scarcity of vital resources**

Tokyo, November 12, 2008 --- Priti Radhakrishnan, director of treatment access for the non-profit Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge (I-MAK), has been selected as one of 160 emerging leaders from 30 countries in the Asia-Pacific region who will gather at the Four Seasons Hotel in Tokyo for the Asia Society's Third Annual Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit.

Chosen from among nearly a thousand nominees, Ms. Radhakrishnan will join leaders from diverse backgrounds and expertise such as business, government, academia, media, civil society and the arts to explore the most challenging issues facing the region and to develop new collaborative proposals for how these challenges can be addressed at a time both of global economic uncertainty and reorientation of the international political order toward the East.

The Summit is part of the larger Asia 21 Young Leaders Initiative - the pre-eminent gathering of Asia's most dynamic young leaders from the Asia-Pacific region. At the Summit, young leaders will explore possibilities for using values-based leadership to develop equitable and sustainable solutions to shared challenges posed to the Asia-Pacific community. Discussions will center on the global financial crisis and the increasing scarcity of vital resources. Delegates will also develop proposals for group public service projects. In addition to a keynote speech, break-out sessions, group discussions, and a debate, the Summit will feature lively cultural performances.

Ms. Radhakrishnan co-founded I-MAK in 2006. The non-profit organization's team of intellectual property lawyers and scientists work to strengthen patent systems, encourage innovation in new medicines and expand access to the best and latest treatments. Ms. Radhakrishnan obtained her law degree from New York University School of Law and has worked as a health attorney in the U.S., Switzerland and India. She also served as the Senior Project Officer of the Lawyers Collective HIV/AIDS Unit in India. In 2007 she coordinated the efforts of Team Vinay, a movement that registered 25,000 new bone marrow donors in the South Asian American community and received the National Marrow Donor Program's Lieutenant General Frank E. Peterson Jr. award for innovation and commitment to minority recruitment & retention of bone marrow donors. In 2008, she was awarded the Echoing Green Fellowship for social entrepreneurs and was named a 2008 Pop!Tech Social Innovation Fellow.

"The young leaders meeting in Tokyo this week represent the future of the Asia-Pacific community," says Asia Society Executive Vice President Jamie Metz, who spearheads the Asia 21 Initiative. "These leaders will need to know each other, share ideas, and learn to work together to make this Asia-Pacific century as peaceful, prosperous, just, sustainable and secure as it can be. We at the Asia Society are proud to be working with our many partners around the region and the young leaders themselves to help collectively build a better future for the region."

The Summit is supported by founding international sponsor Merrill Lynch, as well as Shinsei Bank, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ, Marubeni, Mitsui OSK Lines, Heidrick & Struggles, ANA, Mori Building, Orix, Yomiuri, Ashoka Innovators for the Public, Hitotsubashi University, Keizai Doyukai, Cosmo and the Government of Japan

"These challenging times demand collaboration across borders and sectors in order to generate innovative, fresh solutions," said Jason Brand, President of Merrill Lynch Pacific Rim. "The Asia 21 Young Leaders can demonstrate their leadership by using this powerful network to create economic, political, and environmental change."

In addition to Ms. Radhakrishnan, one of the leading social entrepreneurs in the U.S., this year's delegates include the New Zealand ambassador to South and North Korea, a Malaysian Member of Parliament, a Bangladesh Supreme Court lawyer, and other leading social entrepreneurs, journalists, artists, politicians and business leaders with compelling backgrounds and diverse expertise.

The Summit aims to prepare tomorrow's leaders for the challenges and responsibilities of global citizenship, to generate creative, cross-sectoral approaches to leadership and problem solving, to build networks of trust across geographic boundaries, and to educate each other in the highest ideals of values-based leadership.

The Summit participants will join Asia 21's network of 400 past delegates and fellows in 30 countries.

For more information about Asia Society's Asia 21 initiative, including details about previous conferences and Fellows, please visit www.AsiaSociety.org/Asia21

Asia Society

The Asia Society is an international organization dedicated to strengthening relationships and deepening understanding among the peoples of Asia and the United States. We seek to increase knowledge and enhance dialogue, encourage creative expression, and generate new ideas across the fields of policy, business, education, arts, and culture.

Founded in 1956 by John D. Rockefeller 3rd, the Society reaches audiences around the world through its headquarters in New York and regional centers in Houston, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Hong Kong, Seoul, Manila, Melbourne, Mumbai and Shanghai. The Asia Society is supported by contributions from foundations, corporations, and individuals. Asia Society is on the web at www.asiasociety.org.

I-MAK

The non-profit Initiative for Medicines, Access and Knowledge (I-MAK) is a global, independent team of lawyers and scientists working to ensure access to affordable medicines, by making sure the patent system works. The organization challenges non-meritorious pharmaceutical patents that drive up the cost of affordable medicines and puts them out of reach for many people around the world. I-MAK's team is working to create technical analyses of 100 critical medicines and patents, which will help them preempt the granting of unmerited patents, increase accountability and ultimately make lifesaving drugs more affordable. I-MAK's patent information, databases, publications and presentations are available for reference at <http://www.i-mak.org/>.

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